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I.—NOTE on CRIMINAL RETURNS. *By* W. M. TARTT, F.S.S.

As it may sometimes be thought desirable to record the practical results of suggestions or inquiries made by the Statistical Society, or in connection with its proceedings, I beg to submit the following particulars in reference to some improvements in our *Criminal Returns*.

At a meeting of the British Association at Cheltenham, in 1856, it was felt by the Committee of Section F, that the information on this subject was very imperfect either for judicial or statistical purposes.

A report upon such returns was consequently directed to be prepared,* which was presented at the meeting of the Association, the following year, and printed *in extenso* in vol. xx of this *Journal*. An abridgment of it was also given in the Transactions of the Association for 1857.

Two of the points insisted upon, as calculated to give “a better knowledge of the classes whom we have to punish or reclaim,” were (1) to ascertain “whether the crimes committed in any particular district were by residents or non-residents,” the former indicating something in the social state of the locality which required to be remedied; the latter being merely accidental; and (2) it was suggested as desirable to have a record of offenders similar to the *Casiers Judiciaires* of France; which were fully described in the report.

The subject was again incidentally referred to at the meeting of the Association at Leeds, in 1858. In a conversation at that time with the late Mr. Talbot Baines, he mentioned that in Lancashire, where he was Chairman of the County Sessions, returns of offences and punishments were printed and circulated at the end of each quarter, but they were confined to convictions under the “Juvenile Offenders” and “Criminal Justice” Acts. This was at least a beginning; and with a view to extend its adoption, it was moved at the Trinity Sessions for Gloucestershire, 1860, and carried, that similar returns should be made; but only printed annually. They

* “On the Present Mode of Framing our Criminal Returns, and on the best Means of Improving them; having due regard to the recorded Experience of the French and Prussian Governments.”

contained, in columns, the date of commitment, name, age, offence, term of imprisonment, previous convictions, personal description, and other indications. Whether they were adopted in any other counties I am not informed.

In this state the matter rested till the Winter Assizes of 1862, when the increase of crime consequent upon the lenient treatment of liberated convicts, had caused alarm throughout the country, and the Grand Jury at Gloucester made a presentment in which they ventured to hint at the necessity of an enactment to secure a *systematic record* in criminal courts of each previous conviction of an offender," and they prayed the Judge to bring it before the Home Department.

In anticipation, however, of any action by Government, Mr. Baker, of Hardwicke Court, at the Epiphany Sessions for Gloucestershire, 1863, obtained the appointment of a committee to take this requirement into consideration, and upon their report it was determined that a return of *all* convictions should annually be printed according to the subjoined form:—

Proposed Return of Convictions

Date of Commitment.	Name.	Known or Not Known to Police.		If Known, how long?			Age.	Offence.
		N.	K.	Less than a Year.	1 Year and not 5.	5 Years and upwards.		
1863.								
June 4	John Smith	N.	—	—	—	—	20	{ Attempting to pick pockets } Stealing coal
„ 10	Samuel Jones	—	K.	10 mo.	—	—	18	
„ 14	Isaac Williams	—	K.	—	2 yrs.	—	24	„ lead
„ 20	William Green	—	K.	—	—	7 yrs.	32	„ boots

Note.—The above are summary convictions. The same columns

It would have been well, when in committee, to have moved the adoption of an additional column for any "alias" that might be ascertained to have been assumed; but this may be done hereafter.

Should the example of Gloucestershire be followed by other counties, it will be an approach to the more perfect records which have been kept in France since 1851, where we are assured that the police find them "one of the most valuable and ready modes of obtaining information."*

One of the practical advantages of the returns under the "Juvenile Offenders" and "Criminal Justice" Acts has been, that

* "Compte Rendu de la Deuxième Session du Congrès International," p. 86.

a comparison of sentences, in different petty sessional divisions, has led to that greater uniformity of punishment which is important in order to prevent its being a lottery; but the great object of the more extensive movement now referred to is to prevent a mistaken treatment of old offenders, and to afford that knowledge of the criminal classes, which is so necessary a guide, whether they are to be punished or reclaimed.

It is essential that the returns should be adopted by every county in the kingdom, and this makes it more desirable that the subject should again be noticed in the *Statistical Journal*. To make them uniform or general some legislative or official influence may be required.

The only objection I have seen urged against such a system of registration arises out of consideration for the convict himself. It is contended, that after he has suffered the penalty of his crime, it would be unjust to brand him with the additional disgrace of appearing on such a record. This is scarcely the place for inquiring how far such feelings should extend. It must be remembered, however,

in the County of Gloucester.

Term of Imprisonment.	Convicted Before, and how Often.		Description.				
	Of Felony.	Of Misdemeanor.	Height.	Hair.	Eyes.	Complexion.	Other Marks (if any).
1 month	—	—	ft. in. 5 9	brown	grey	sallow	{ Scar on little finger of left hand
6 weeks	once	—	5 8	black	dark	dark	None
4 days	—	—	5 8½	light	grey	fresh	Mole on left neck
2 months	—	twice	5 10	grey	„	ruddy	Blind right eye

will be used for convictions at the sessions and assizes.

that the proposed returns are intended only for judiciary purposes, and will not be made accessible to idle or malevolent curiosity.

II.—Spanish Post Office Returns, 1847-62.

THE following statistics of the Spanish post office are derived from official sources;* we are indebted to Mr. Hendriks for their arrangement in the present form.

* *Vide Revista Peninsular Ultramarina de Caminos de Hierro, Telégrafos, Navegacion é Industria*, Nos. 355 and 357 (1863); also the *Revista General de*

“ Statistics of letters which passed through the Spanish post office in the year 1862 :—

Home correspondence	{ Private letters	53,961,752
	{ Official „	4,165,175
		<hr/>
		58,126,927
Colonial correspondence		2,214,440
Foreign „		3,118,516
		<hr/>
Total		63,459,883
		<hr/>

“ Increase in the number of letters, year 1862 compared with year 1861 :—

Home correspondence	2,749,195
Official „	793,658
Colonial „	325,532
Foreign „	143,636
	<hr/>
Total	4,012,021*
	<hr/>

“ The following table shows the total number of letters, exclusive of official letters, from 1847 to 1862, with the proportion to each inhabitant, from 1847 to 1862 :—

Years.	Number of Letters.	Proportion of Letters to each Inhabitant.
1847	19,782,714	} 1'35
'48	20,201,208	
'49	20,374,503	
'50	20,488,472	
'51	20,776,096	
1852	21,965,511	} 1'73
'53	23,221,582	
'54	25,235,889	
'55	28,838,032	
'56	30,241,473	
1857	35,583,001	2'30
'58	37,708,583	2'44
'59	44,045,059	2'85
'60	50,590,936	3'23
'61	56,055,001	3'58
'62	59,294,708	3'78

“ This increase is due not only to the growing prosperity of Spain, but to the improvements introduced of late years into the postal service, and notably to the reduction of the rates of postage in 1854.

“ On comparing these with English statistics, it will be found that the number

Estadística, article by Don J. Jimeno Agius, “ *Datos estadísticos sobre correos* ” (June, 1863).

* The *Revista Peninsular* gives 5,012,021 as the number,—evidently a typographical error.

of letters passed through the Spanish post office in 1862 is about equal to the number delivered in England and Wales (exclusive of franks) in the year 1839, that is, just prior to the postal reform.* The number of letters delivered during the year 1862 was as follows:—

	Number of Letters.	Proportion of Letters to each Inhabitant.
England and Wales	497,031,000	24
Ireland	51,060,000	9
Scotland	57,380,000	19
Total, United Kingdom	605,471,000	21

“ The postal circulation, *comparatively with population*, is therefore about five and a half times as great in the United Kingdom as in Spain. The absolute number of letters is about ten times as great. The net postal revenue in Spain cannot be ascertained from the returns, but the gross revenue is not one-tenth of the corresponding result in the United Kingdom. The latter, for 1862, amounted to 3,646,889*l.*, whilst the Spanish gross receipts were only 34,952,242 *reals*. The increase from previous years was, however, considerable. In 1840 the gross revenue from the post office was only 15,533,636 *reals*; in 1853, 25,502,942. Comparing the gross revenue with the gross absolute number of letters, it does not appear that, on the average, the postage per letter is higher in Spain than in the United Kingdom.”

* The total for England and Wales in 1839 was 59,983,000; for Ireland, 8,302,000; for Scotland, 7,623,000. The estimated number of franks in the same year was 6,563,000. The following is the Postmaster-General's statement for 1839-62:—

Period.	Totals for Great Britain and Ireland, 1839-62.	Increase per Cent. per Annum.
1839 (including franks)	82,471,000	—
'40 (postal reform, and franks abolished)	168,768,000	122½
'41-45 (average of 5 years)	227,777,000	10
'46-50 " 5 "	327,006,000	5
'51-55 " 5 "	410,166,000	5½
'55-60 " 5 "	522,898,000	4½
'61 (1 year)	593,240,000	5½
'62 (1 ")	606,471,000	2

III.—Coventry Freehold Land Society.

MR. C. HOLTE BRACEBRIDGE read before Section (F) of the British Association, at the recent meeting at Newcastle, a paper upon the working

of a freehold land society at Coventry. The statistical notes which formed the principal part of Mr. Bracebridge's communication, are printed hereunder :—

Statistical Notes.

Date of commencement of society, 1848.

Date of final settlement, except as to sums together of less than 100*l.* in the aggregate, 1863.

Number of allotments, 1,108

„ (besides roads, &c.) to each acre, 10.

	£	s.	d.
Price of allotment originally (viz., cost of land)	16	10	9
„ charging all improvements.....	33	6	6
Total cost of land	18,252	18	6
„ improvements, roads, culverts, &c.	18,468	4	5
Weekly contribution per share.....	—	1	6

“ The roads are laid out 30 to 40 feet wide, well-formed, with deep foundation, and macadamized, with culverts and pipe-tile drains, levels being left for gas and water pipes, both of which have been subsequently introduced at Earlsdon and some of the other estates. On each estate the general outfall is attended to. With a small exception, all the land is above level of the general building sites of the town, from 10 feet above the river (of the Sherborn) level, to 40 feet summit level, which is shown by the old water works reservoir on one side the city, and on the other side by the great plateau of Earlsdon, 2 feet below which lies that estate.

“ By an agreement with the society's solicitor, the legal expenses on each allotment are reduced to 3*s.* The original title deeds are referred to in each title, and are deposited in the mayor's chest. The whole amount withdrawn from the society by subscribers, is 2,651*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* The allotments were offered to each subscriber according to the date of his subscription, and on refusal of the senior subscriber, were balloted for. The weekly contributions of 1*s.* 6*d.* per share, were continued until two-thirds of the price was paid up, when each shareholder received his title deed, with the option of leaving the remainder as a mortgage. About two-thirds of the members mortgaged their share, but ten only remain unpaid at present, the unpaid mortgages being on twenty-five shares, and the whole amount owing less than 100*l.*

“ The corporation have opened streets for communication between these estates and the heart of the city.

“ *The Buildings.*—The houses built upon the land are probably in the proportion of two-thirds, the result of the operations of a building society, which is totally distinct from the land society. Every member has been free to build as he pleased upon his own allotment, excepting that in the agreement of sale he was bound to leave about 25 feet in the rear of the house not built upon, so that each allotment has been a parallelogram, containing one-tenth of an acre, having the small end towards the road, and a garden behind the house, thereby securing many sanitary objects as well as privacy. All streets and buildings have been approved by the Board of Health.

“ The statistics of the cost of the land and of its proportion for building purposes; of the number of allotments, and of the estimated value of the houses erected therein, are shown by the subjoined table :—

Names of Estates, &c.	Distance		Cost of Land.	Cost of Streets, Culverts, &c.	Total Cost.	Number of Lots.	Average Number of Yards.	Number of Houses Erected.	Population.	Estimated Value of Houses.
	From City Boundary.	From the Centre of Town.								
	Miles.	Miles.	£	£	£					£
1. Geoffrey Wood's } Cross 2½ acres, purchased 1849 (about 140l. per acre).	within	¼	385	283	668	29	450	28	126	4,150
2. Stoke estate 49½ acres, purchased 1850 (about 88l. per acre).	¼	1¼	4,400	3,681	8,081	256	800	125	562	15,480
3. Earlsdon 80½ acres, purchased 1852 (about 130l. per acre).	¼	1¼	4,000	3,705	7,705	250	500	104	477	21,235
4. Lant's 9 A. 30 P., purchased 1852 (about 350l. per acre).	within	¼	3,220	2,323	5,543	190	200	175	787	24,150
5. Smith's 2 A. 2 R. 32 P., pur- chased 1852 (about 240l. per acre).	within	¼	655	660	1,315	42	200	108	486	11,650
6. Spittalmoor 15 A. 2 R. 10 P., pur- chased 1855 (about 360l. per acre).	within	½	5,593	7,816	13,409	341	200	198	891	39,210
Total area 110 A. 1 R. 32 P., at about 165l. per acre	—	—	18,253	18,468	36,721	1,108	—	740	3,329	115,875

IV.—The Price of a Quartern Loaf.

THE following letter, signed “Mark Lane,” appeared in the *Times* of the 28th October last. It is important as showing the relative price of wheat, flour, and bread:—

“Sir,—A little explanation from a practical man, neither miller nor baker, may be of service in enlightening your readers as to the real facts of the ‘price of bread’ question, which recent letters in the *Times* have rather obscured than elucidated.

“Let us first deal with the miller. Excellent red English wheat of the last crop, weighing 63 lbs. and over per imperial bushel, is now selling in London at 40s. per quarter. New wheat alone, however, will not make satisfactory bread, and a certain proportion, varying in different seasons, of old or foreign, must be used to mix with it. This costs higher than the other, and at the present time a perfectly satisfactory ‘grist,’ or mixture of red wheat, cannot be bought to stand less than 43s. per quarter all round in the mill. This will make as good flour as any man need wish, but if superior colour be required, the finest white wheat, English and foreign, must be employed in greater or less proportion, so that the very best mixture used by the first or top price millers, as they are called, would stand them to-day 50s. per quarter in the mill.

“Assuming, then, the wheat to cost the miller 43s. and 50s. respectively, he can afford to deliver the flour into the baker’s shop at 32s. and 37s. cash per sack

of 280 lbs. net, and make a fair working profit. Good coloured and wholesome flour may now be had from country millers under 30s. per sack, and a great deal of it is used in London; but to make bread to please the Londoner, the baker must mix with it American or other flour containing foreign wheat, and it may be assumed that few good bakers are now using flour costing them on the average less than the 32s. per sack above referred to. We have now got the flour to the baker's shop, and find it costs him from 32s. to 37s. per sack. To make it into bread and leave him a fair profit, we must allow him 10s. per sack, which will raise the above prices to 42s. and 47s. Let us see how much he should charge for the loaf.

"A sack of flour of good strong quality will produce about 94 4-lb. loaves of pure bread, or, in other words, 3 lbs. of flour will absorb sufficient water to make 4 lbs. of bread. The baker, it is well known, uses a great many potatoes; but at the present low price of flour the saving is not great, and we will leave it out of the account. Our sum now stands thus:—42s. and 47s. \div 94 = 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (nearly) and 6d. respectively; so that at present prices the baker can sell the 4-lb. loaf at prices varying from 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for good, to 6d. for the very best bread, with fair profit to himself. Now, in these calculations cash prices have been assumed, and the disturbing element of bad debts left out of the account. The London bakers, however, are for the most part men of no capital, and no small percentage of them fail annually. Few of them can pay cash to the miller, and therefore where he gives credit you must allow him to charge from 1s. to 3s. per sack additional, according to the presumed solvency of his buyer, as an insurance fund against bad debts, and to pay loss of interest. Then, again, the baker, if he has to run accounts with his customers, as is usual in the better neighbourhoods, must have an additional price to pay his loss of interest and to protect him from bad debts.

"At the present moment in all the more populous parts of London, where competition is active, excellent bread (I use the word relatively, as will be seen below) may be bought at 5d. to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (per 4 lbs. weighed off) across the counter for cash. If the above figures are correct, no one can say that these prices are too high.

"In the more fashionable quarters, and in some of the suburbs where there is not much competition, the best bread is charged 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. delivered at the house, credit being given for from one week to six and even twelve months. Nevertheless, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. is too high, and to customers paying within a month the very best bread should not anywhere exceed 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

"On the whole, there is not much reason to complain. The poor man buys his bread as cheap, in proportion to the price of wheat, as anywhere in the world; and if the rich are mulcted of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per loaf, it is their own fault, and is the result of their indifference. The London bakers, as a body, are very hardworking men, and the few rich among them is a proof that their profits are not exorbitant. The London millers, as a body, though always grumbling, are well-to-do, but there is sufficient competition among themselves and from foreign flour to prevent their unduly raising prices.

"In some parts of the Continent the Government interferes to fix the price of bread, and some shortsighted people advocate the establishment of the system here. The French, however, have found the evil of this plan, and have just abandoned it. The true principle in this, as in all trade matters, is *laissez faire*. Competition and the supervision of a free press and intelligent public are the best safeguards against overcharges.

"Before concluding let me add that, with the greatest variety and the finest qualities of wheat in the world always obtainable in the London market, so bad is our system of *panification* that the London bread is inferior to that of any large city of Europe. Let the public learn what good bread is, call for it, and rely upon it, it will soon be forthcoming."

The second letter also appeared in the *Times* on the same day; it is from a London Baker, and, so far as it goes, corroborates the statements in the first communication:—

"Sir,—Your correspondent of Devizes may be correct in his information that

the contractor for the Pewsey union is only charging $4\frac{1}{4}d.$ per 4-lb. loaf for excellent bread, but if he is so, many of us poor London bakers would like to buy our flour from the same source. As an instance, I am paying from 34s. to 38s. 6d. for flour, per 280 lbs., and the usual expectation is to make about 95 4-lb. loaves per sack. Sometimes it will produce a little more—that is if the flour has been ground from good dry wheats—but occasionally only 94, or even less may be nearer the truth; however, say 95 as an average, and allow 6s. per sack to pay for manufacture, as rent, taxes, gas, coals, men's wages, waste, &c., making with the flour, say 42s. 6d., or nearly $5\frac{1}{2}d.$ per 4-lb. loaf. Now, in all the lower districts of London 5d. to $5\frac{1}{2}d.$ is the price, and unless a man can bake at least twenty sacks per week, he will get no more than journeyman's wages at that price. As to Belgravia, I can quite understand $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ or $2d.$ per loaf increase being demanded for keeping books, credit being the bane of high quarters. Some people think the baker is impertinent if he asks for money under six or twelve months. There is no doubt, bakers can sell good well-made bread at $5\frac{1}{2}d.$ now for cash over the counter."

A Regent Street Baker replied to the letter of "Mark Lane." The principal passage bearing upon the price of bread in London is here given:—

"Again, Sir, 94 loaves is allowed by 'Mark Lane' as the return of a sack of flour. I admit he is not very wide of the mark in that, but from the same source as I gathered the expenses, I found that 93 was the produce; but we can never sell the 93 at full price, as some are split, burnt, &c. Take the amount at 91, we have then 91 at $7\frac{3}{4}d.$ Flour 41s. 6d. (*plus* potatoes), leaving 15s. 6d. per sack, 6d. less than the lord mayor used to allow, and I at once admit that our profits, such as they are, are now better than they have been for years; but we could not sell at 7d. From a printed statement now before me, dated 1813, the price fixed by law, with flour at 40s., is $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ "

This writer observed that in his own case he used 36 lbs. of potatoes to 1,680 lbs. of flour, or six sacks.

The assize of wheaten bread, as fixed according to the price of wheat by 53rd Geo. III, cap. 116, is stated hereunder.

Wheat, per Quarter.		Quartern Loaf to Weigh 4 lbs. $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Wheat, per Quarter.		Quartern Loaf to Weigh 4 lbs. $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
39	8	7	69	8	— $10\frac{3}{4}$
41	8	$7\frac{1}{4}$	71	8	— 11
43	8	$7\frac{1}{2}$	73	8	— $11\frac{1}{4}$
45	8	$7\frac{3}{4}$	75	8	— $11\frac{1}{2}$
47	8	8	77	8	— $11\frac{3}{4}$
49	8	$8\frac{1}{4}$	79	8	1 —
51	8	$8\frac{1}{2}$	81	—	1 $-\frac{1}{4}$
53	8	$8\frac{3}{4}$	83	—	1 $-\frac{1}{2}$
55	8	9	85	—	1 $-\frac{3}{4}$
57	8	$9\frac{1}{4}$	87	—	1 1
59	8	$9\frac{1}{2}$	89	—	1 $1\frac{1}{4}$
61	8	$9\frac{3}{4}$	91	—	1 $1\frac{1}{2}$
63	8	10	93	—	1 $1\frac{3}{4}$
65	8	$10\frac{1}{4}$	95	—	1 2
67	8	$10\frac{1}{2}$	97	—	1 $2\frac{1}{4}$